

ROMANCE OF THE SOUTH

Decides Mrs. Massey Is White.

RETURN HUSBAND'S ESTATE

Cloud Which Overshadowed Southern Life Removed.

One of the Incidents Growing Out of the Unfortunate Condition of Old Slavery Days.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 1.—A jury has decided that Eliza J. Massey was the daughter of Dr. B. J. Williams and Sarah Holey, that not a drop of negro blood flows in her veins and therefore she was lawfully wedded to E. W. Massey.

It is thus that a woman's rights have been established after a series of romances and misadventures that constitute material enough for a novel.

The inception of the story dates back ten years before Abraham Lincoln signed the decree making African equal to Caucasian blood in the eyes of the federal judges. Dr. Williams was an

old-time planter. Near his plantation lived Sarah Holey, the pretty daughter of a poor white man.

One day the home of the unfortunate neighbor of the planter was darkened by the evidence of the planter's perjury and the daughter's weakness, in the shape of a pretty little girl baby, Sarah Holey, the mother, soon left her disgraced home and for a time was lost in the lower strata of life in Memphis.

Dr. Williams, while failing to do justice to the mother, warmed to his own flesh and blood. The girl baby was taken into his home. The doctor bought a healthy negro called Charita and to her gave the care of the child.

She brought up the little "Liza" as her own child. The doctor moved to Memphis and took along Charita and "Liza." The latter was brought up with negro associates and soon the gossip began to say Charita was the mother.

She developed into a beautiful girl, and though she had not the advantages of a finished education Squire Massey was charmed with the girl and married her. It is believed that he and the doctor had an understanding regarding her parentage.

She raised a family and then Mr. Massey died.

In September, 1902, Mrs. Massey, through her attorneys, filed a bill, praying that the chancery court decree to her her valuable home, comprising 750 acres of the old homestead on the banks of the Mississippi river, now occupied by John Franklin.

Mrs. Massey's bill recited that her husband, E. W. Massey, who died in April, 1891, executed a deed to K. R. Armistead and T. B. Armistead, bankers and brokers of Memphis, without her knowledge or consent and without her wishing her interest in the homestead.

Subsequently the Armisteads sold the land to H. C. Williamson who in turn conveyed it to the defendant, John Franklin. The defendant denied that complain-

ant was the wife of E. W. Massey and recited in his complaint that "Mrs. Eliza J. Massey is a negro."

The old nurse who was present when Mrs. Massey was born testified to the facts, and others told of having seen Sarah Holey nurse the child before the advent of Charita Williams. The jury not only settled the contest as to the old homestead, but cleared away the cloud which so long overshadowed her life.

EXAMINE ALL THEATERS.

New York Will Make Rigid Investigation of Conditions at Her Playhouses.

New York, Jan. 1.—Stirred by the Chicago theater horror, the authorities of this city are about to institute a thorough investigation of all amusement places in order to most thoroughly guard against a similar happening. However, the managers of all the leading theaters declare that they already have taken means for insuring the safety of their patrons.

City Superintendent of Schools Maxwell has issued special fire instructions to the district superintendents and principals of schools whom he directs to take every precaution at once to insure a perfect understanding of fire drills and rapid dismissal for the hundreds of thousands of children under their care. He also called a meeting of school principals to discuss measures for making the drills even more effective than at present.

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LONG RECORD OF CRIME.

Summary of Train and Stage Robberies for Past Fourteen Years in the United States.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 1.—The Express-Gazette, in its January issue, gives the following summary of train and stage robberies committed in the United States during 1902, together with the record for the past fourteen years:

The total number of trains held up in fourteen years is 341, total number of people killed 59, and the number of people injured 197.

The number of stage robberies in 1902 was 6, while that of last year was 7. This year's record shows that no passengers or trainmen were killed by robbers, but there were six wounded. Last year one was killed and three wounded. One robber was killed in 1902, as compared with three killed last year.

WORKED THE FOREIGNERS.

Swindler Who Palmed Himself Off as the British Consul Gets Checks Cashed in Europe.

New York, Jan. 1.—By means of a clever and carefully prearranged scheme a man calling himself S. W. Spencer, representing himself to be the British Consul at Washington, an office that does not exist, is declared by a banking and exporting house to have been traveling through Europe since last October, defrauding banking houses with spurious drafts and forged checks drawn on prominent bankers and business men in New York. The scheme he is alleged to have op-

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erated involved his presence here a few months ago. He is said to have visited sporting houses, and representing himself as British Vice-Consul at Washington, secured drafts for large sums on foreign correspondents for shipments of watches from New Jersey makers, for whom he pretended to hold power of attorney. The shipments never reached Europe, but Spencer did. He took along the drafts upon the proceeds of which, it is alleged, he is enabled to live without labor for the time being. He is now supposed to be in Egypt.

THE TRIBUNE'S DAILY FASHION HINT.



Hat Growing Smaller in Size. Hats are certainly growing smaller in size, and are chosen with some reference to the head which they are supposed to cover, as well as to adorn, but at the same time do not for a moment think the large hat is entirely tabooed. The turban quite narrow and with a point in front, is, when

becoming, thought extremely smart, but when the pointed effect makes the turban too sharp then the brim should always be covered with velvet in soft folds, shirred or pleated to make it becoming, or there are very few women to whom a straight hard line of velvet around the hat is even possible. It is quite a problem now to find a sat-

isfactory all-black hat. The shops are filled with hats of every shape and size and color, but all the black is for the moment shepherdess shape in rough beaver, trimmed around the brim with velvet and with one large white rose at the side of the crown, is quite novel, but black and white, not all black. The most at-

tractive all-black hats are a mass of ostrich feathers. The framework of the hat may be beaver or velvet; the trimming must be of ostrich feathers, long plumes or tips or a combination of both. Among the newest shapes are hats with high crowns trimmed with lusters of tips at the left side, with brim turned up in a graceful curve and with two short

tips arranged at the back of the hat that one is large and one out. Then there is the charming graceful heavier hat, with long plume, that starts at the left side of the crown completely encircles it and the end falls down on the hair at the back. This should be of a shape of moderate size, the large shape being quite old-fashioned.

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